

- 13 -

Commissioner for Patents**REMARKS**

Claims 1-31 remain in the application.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a). More specifically, the Examiner states that *"the printed circuit board having at least three micro-panel layers must be shown [...]. No new matter should be entered."* The Applicants argue that in the response to the Office communication of January 22, 2004, reference letters A, B and C were inserted in Figs. 2 and 4 to illustrate the three layers of micro-panel. However, the Applicants point out that the three layers of micro-panel were present in Figs. 2 and 4 as originally filed. Moreover, the specification as originally filed described the use of three layers of micro-panel, whereby no new matter has been entered into the application. Therefore, the Applicants believe that the objection of the Examiner is traversed.

In Item 3 of the Office communication, the Examiner rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hardt et al., in view of Hill et al. and Bellino et al. The Applicants argue that none of the aforementioned references describes panels, positioned side by side to cover an opening of a housing, that consist of a *"printed circuit board body"*, as claimed in claim 1. Moreover, none of the cited references discloses a panel, positioned side by side to similar panels to cover an opening of a housing, that is *"releasably connected to an electronic card in the housing"*.

Hill et al. and Bellino et al. both teach an electronic card that has an end panel fixed thereto, with the end panel covering an opening in the housing. There is no suggestion from any of these references to combine the above-described features present in claim 1, and the Applicants refer to *In re Geiger*, in which it is stated that *"obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching suggestion or incentive supporting the combination"*. Therefore, in view of these arguments, the Applicants believe that claim 1, as currently on file, patentably distinguishes over the cited references.

In the rejection of claim 1, the Examiner has stated that *"it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art [...] to use the connector panel design of Hill et al. for the connector panel of Davis et al. for the purpose of providing prewiring of the input/output connectors"*. The Applicants firstly point out that there was no reference by Davis et al. that was cited in the present Office communication, whereby the Examiner's clarifications are requested. Moreover, the Applicants request more

- 14 -

Commissioner for Patents

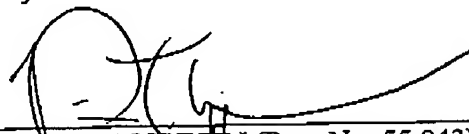
detail as to why the Examiner considers the combination of the aforementioned references to be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

The Applicants state that claim 12 has the same limitations as claim 1 regarding the "*printed circuit board body*" being "*releasably connected to an electronic card in the housing*", whereby the Applicants believe that claim 12 patentably distinguishes over the cited references.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants believe that this application is in order for allowance, and early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sylvain MARCOTTE et al.

By:



Pierre T. NGUYEN (Reg. No. 55,043)

Agent of Record

OGILVY RENAULT

1981 McGill College Avenue, Suite 1600

Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 2Y3

Tel.: (514)847-4243

August 5, 2004

(Date)

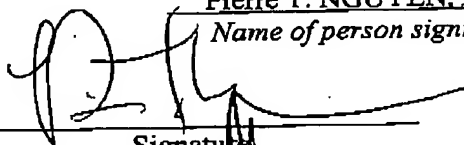
Encl. - Request for Continued Examination

**CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile-transmitted  
to the Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Pierre T. NGUYEN, Reg. No. 55,043

Name of person signing certification



Signature

5 août 2004

Date